

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
  - an encoder to encode data in a first format from an input device into a string of data having a second format supported by a server having an instant message infrastructure, the first and second formats being different;
  - a packetizer coupled to the encoder to break the string of data into packets no larger than maximum message size allowed by the infrastructure, the packets having at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and
  - a decoder to decode a received packet encoded in the second format back into the data having the first format.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect the second format and a converter to convert the string of data back into the data having the first format.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to the server supporting the second format.
4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the infrastructure is an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure data in the first format are scale parameters and a set of ink strokes that include ink color, width, and a collection of X and Y coordinates.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.
7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the input device is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
  - an encoder to encode data in a first format from an input device into a string of data having a second format supported by a server having an instant message infrastructure, the first and second formats being different;
  - a packetizer coupled to the encoder to break the string of data into packets no larger than maximum message size allowed by the infrastructure, the packets having at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and
  - a management layer coupled to the packetizer to process the packetized string of data using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, a smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.
10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising an interface layer coupled to the management layer to process the at least one packet into one of an instant messaging, a chat message, and an e-mail message.
11. (currently amended) A method comprising:
  - encoding data in a first format from an input device into a string of data having a second format supported by a server having an instant message infrastructure, the first and second formats being different;
  - breaking the string of data into packets no larger than maximum message size allowed by the infrastructure, the packets having at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and
  - decoding a received packet encoded in the second format back into the data having the first format.
12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to the server supporting the second format.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the infrastructure is an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure data in the first format are scale parameters and a set of ink strokes that include ink color, width, and a collection of X and Y coordinates.

15. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

18. (currently amended) A method comprising:

encoding data in a first format from an input device into a string of data having a second format supported by a server having an instant message infrastructure, the first and second formats being different;

breaking the string of data into packets no larger than maximum message size allowed by the infrastructure, the packets having at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

processing the string of data using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
processing the at least one packet into one of an instant message, a chat message, and an e-mail message.

21. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:  
a non-transitory computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code for encoding data in a first format from an input device into a string of data having a second format supported by a server having an instant message infrastructure, the first and second formats being different;

computer readable program code for breaking the string of data into packets no larger than maximum message size allowed by the infrastructure, the packets having at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

computer readable program code for decoding a received packet encoded in the second format back into the data having the first format.

22. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

23. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to the server supporting the second format.

24. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 23 21 wherein the infrastructure is an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure data in the first format are scale parameters and a set of ink strokes that include ink color, width, and a collection of X and Y coordinates.

25. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

26. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the data having the first format is an ink-input data.

27. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

28. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code for encoding data in a first format from an input device into a string of data having a second format supported by a server having an instant message infrastructure, the first and second formats being different;

computer readable program code for breaking the string of data into packets no larger than maximum message size allowed by the infrastructure, the packets having at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

computer readable program code for processing the string of data using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.

29. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, a smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

30. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the computer readable program code further comprising:

computer readable program code for processing the at least one packet into one of an instant message, a chat message, and an e-mail message.